THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Highly skilled professionals from India generally fare very well in the US. There was a case of Indian computer professionals who were arrested in Taxas in January 2000 by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service of USA, for alleged violation of their employment terms under the Hl-B visa, by working for a company other than the one listed on their labour certificates. They were released the next day after the company that hired them - M/s Frontier Consulting Inc. executed bonds for their release. All charges against the Indian profesionals were subsequently dropped.

(d) The Ambassador of India in Washington lodged a strong protest with the State Department as well as with the Immigration and Naturalisation Service over the arrest of the Indian nationals. The Assistant Secretary of the State Department expressed deep regret on the incident on behalf of the US Governmnet.

Check on Cyber Crime

4924. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the proposed Information Technology Bill, 2000 will not be able to check the Cyber Crimes in India;

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take to c[J]heck the Cyber Crime;

(c) whether Government are planning to set up a study group to know the tackling of the Cyber Crimes in the other parts of the world;

(d) if so, the details of the study group and the focal points of the study; and

(e) if not, how Government would plan to check the Cyber Crimes in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The Government introduce Information Technology Bill, 1999 in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.1999. The Bill provides for legal recognition of transactions carried out by means of Electronics Dat;i Interchange and other means of Electronic Communication, commonly referred to as "Electronics Commerce". The Bill provides for penalty and compensation to prevent computer misuse and computer crime. The legislation

will check the Cyber Crime in India.

The Bill also provides for constituting a Committee called the Cyber Regulations Advisory Committee which shall advise the Government from time to time either generally as regards any rules or for any other purposes connected with the Legislation on Information Technology.

German Plant to Induct Indian IT Professionals

4925. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the German Government is embarking on a plan to induct 20,000 IT professionals from India into their country precipitating another brain drain;

(b) whether the potential for export of Software to Germany can reach one billion US$ within three years; and

(c) if so, what are Government plans to exploit this opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) German Government has announced a plan to initially issue 10,000 green cards (which may later be increased to 20,000) to IT experts from India and other countries to meet its shortage of IT professionals. As we are trying to increase number of IT professionals in the country, it would not precipitate any brain drain.

(b) It is possible to reach a target of US$ 1 billion export of software and software services to Germany by the year 2003.

(c) Government jointly with the National Association of Software and Services Compaines (NASSCOM) has been participating in exhibitions and engaging "Software India" road shows in Germany to promote awareness about India's software capabilities and provide opportunity for business networking.

NASSCOM is planning to launch language courses for computer professionals and is setting up dedicated website for German companies looking for alliance with Indian companies.